

SECTION III—REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2005. Claims 18-28 and 46-61 are cancelled and new claims 62-83 are added. Claims 62-83 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 27, 28, 48, 49, 56 and 57 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to contain the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

New claim 62 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 27, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 18 and intervening claims 25 and 26. Applicants submit that new claim 62 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claims 63-68, Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable, both by virtue of their dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

New claim 69 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 28, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 18 and intervening claims 25 and 26. Applicants submit that new claim 69 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claims 70-75, Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable, both by virtue of their dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

New claim 76 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 48, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 46 and intervening claim 47. Applicants submit that new claim 76 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claim 77, Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable, both by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

New claim 78 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 49, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 46 and intervening claim 47. Applicants submit that

new claim 78 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claim 79, Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable, both by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

New claim 80 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 56, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 54 and intervening claim 55. Applicants submit that new claim 80 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claim 81, Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable, both by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

New claim 82 recites the limitations formerly found in claim 57, along with the limitations formerly found in base claim 54 and intervening claim 55. Applicants submit that new claim 82 is therefore in condition for allowance. As to new claim 83, Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable, both by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim as well as by virtue of the features recited in the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected all claims in the application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of, and therefore unpatentable over, various combinations of the following references: U.S. Patent No. 5,525,788 to Bridgelall *et al* ("Bridgelall"); U.S. Patent No. 6,560,741 to Gerety *et al* ("Gerety"); U.S. Patent No. 5,515,962 to Kennedy *et al* ("Kennedy"); and U.S. Patent No. 5,768,023 to Sawaki *et al* ("Sawaki"). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Conclusion

Given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to allowance of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if

there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 292-8600.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 2-21-06



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Enclosures: Fax Cover Sheet
Amendment transmittal, in duplicate